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DRAFTED BY: MGRW02:OGRIFFITH:7960

APPROVED BY: MGRW02:OGRIFFITH

S/S-O:RSROBINSON PM/ISP:RWELLS

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AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

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CINCSOCOM MACDILL AFB FL IMMEDIATE

CSAF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
CSA WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
CNO WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
CMC WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
HQ AMC SCOTT AFB IL IMMEDIATE  
HQ AMC TACC SCOTT AFB IL IMMEDIATE  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 211602

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR  
TAGS: MOPS, MARR, PREL, PREF, PHUM, RW, FR  
SUBJECT: FRENCH PLANS FOR WITHDRAWAL FROM RWANDA

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.  
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2. FRENCH EMBASSY COUNSELOR FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS GIRMA, CALLED THE RWANDA TASK FORCE ON AUGUST 6 TO OUTLINE THE OFFICIAL FRENCH POSITION ON RWANDA, INCLUDING TROOP WITHDRAWAL PLANS. HE STATED THAT HE WAS SPEAKING ON INSTRUCTION OF HIS FOREIGN MINISTRY WHICH WANTED TO MAKE USG AUTHORITIES AWARE OF ITS POSITION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. GIRMA DID NOT INDICATE WHETHER THE GOF WOULD ISSUE A WRITTEN STATEMENT.

3. THE GOF IS VERY CONCERNED THAT THE WITHDRAWAL OF FRENCH FORCES FROM RWANDA OCCURS SMOOTHLY AND PEACEFULLY. IT BELIEVES THAT THIS DEPENDS ON THREE CONDITIONS: FIRST, THE RAPID DEPLOYMENT OF UNAMIR FORCES; SECOND, CONTINUATION OF RELIEF EFFORTS BY NGO'S AND DONORS AND THE EXPANSION OF THESE EFFORTS TO THE FRENCH HUMANITARIAN ZONE; AND THIRD, POLITICAL RECONCILIATION, INITIATED BY THE NEW RWANDAN GOVERNMENT, TO LURE BACK THE REFUGEES. THE GOF WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO BRING ABOUT THESE CONDITIONS AND ASKS THAT THE UNITED STATES AND OTHERS DO THE SAME.

4. THE PROPOSAL/TIMEPLAN ON WITHDRAWAL OF FRENCH TROOPS

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IS AS FOLLOWS: IN THE GIKONGORO AREA, THE SECOND GHANAIAN COMPANY DEPLOYED ON AUGUST 4, SO SOME FRENCH TROOPS WILL BEGIN TO LEAVE ON AUGUST 8. THE THIRD GHANAIAN COMPANY IS EXPECTED ON AUGUST 14, AND THE REMAINING FRENCH TROOPS WILL WITHDRAW ON AUGUST 17. A CHADIAN COMPANY WILL BE DEPLOYED IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE GIKONGORO AREA. IN KIBUYE DISTRICT, THE

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INTERNATIONAL AFRICAN CONTINGENTS WILL REMAIN IN PLACE. THE FRENCH WILL WITHDRAW BETWEEN AUGUST 11 AND 15. IN CYANGUGU, THE FRENCH ARE COUNTING ON THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE ETHIOPIAN FORCES BY AUGUST 21, AT WHICH POINT THEY WILL PULL OUT. GIRMA FURTHER EMPHASIZED THAT THE GOF HOPES THAT THE AFRICAN COMPONENTS OF OPERATION TURQUOISE WILL BE INTEGRATED INTO UNAMIR.

5. CONCERNING HUMANITARIAN RELIEF, THE WFP AND DONORS MUST TAKE ACTION TO INTERVENE IN THE WHOLE COUNTRY, INCLUDING THE FRENCH HUMANITARIAN ZONE. THE HUMANITARIAN RELIEF EFFORTS BEGUN BY FRENCH TROOPS SHOULD BE CONTINUED. THE GOF IS VERY MUCH IN FAVOR OF THE PROPOSAL BY THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES TO SEND CIVILIAN OBSERVERS TO RWANDA. THIS INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE COULD BE CONSIDERED IMPARTIAL ENOUGH TO REASSURE THE REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS, ALLOWING THEM TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES. THE GOF ALSO SEES THE URGENT NEED TO RECONSTITUTE A FUNCTIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE FOR RWANDA, INCLUDING IN THE FRENCH ZONE. GOR OFFICIALS SHOULD GO TO THE FRENCH ZONE TO START TAKING OVER THE ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURES PUT IN PLACE BY THE FRENCH FORCES.

6. GIRMA UNDERLINED REPEATEDLY THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY MUST DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO AVOID A NEW EXODUS OF REFUGEES. SENDING IN INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS AND CONVINCING THE GOR TO ENGAGE IN POLITICAL RECONCILIATION ARE THE KEY ELEMENTS TO THIS. THE GOF IS COUNTING ON UNITED STATES SUPPORT IN THE UNITED NATIONS AND ELSEWHERE.

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7. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.

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